Bridgwater 15 April

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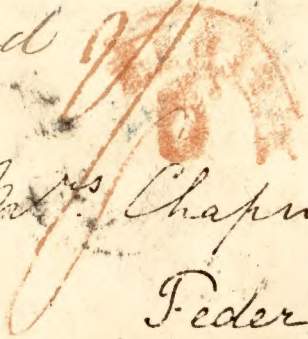

Mrs. Chapman

Federal Street

Boston

America

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AP 16
LIVERPOOL
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1847
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Ms. A. 9.2.23.26

Riverside Bridgwater

April 14th 1847

My Dear Mrs Chapman

Your most welcome letter reached me about tens days ago, let me thank you most sincerely for it and for the kind present of the Liberty Bell which accompanied it. The interest with which my sisters and myself read the latter was much increased by the information which you sent me respecting the Contributors to it. I can truly say that we have appreciated and are grateful for your kindness in writing so much when you had so many other claims upon your time and attention.

Some of us are already at work for the next Bazaar, and we shall do what we can to get contributions for it, at the same time I fear that we shall have much less to send you than we had last time, chiefly on account of the very unusual exertions which have been made here for the relief of the starving Irish and which have monopolized the time and thoughts of many of our fellow-townsmen; besides this the last contributions were made in the midst of the enthusiasm excited by Mr Douglass in his visit to us in the beginning of September. Now although he has inspired not a few with an interest in this Cause which will not pass away, yet I do not know how far it will be permanent in many who shared in it strongly at the time. We will attend to your wishes about marking the prices of the articles as far as we can, but in some cases we should find it very difficult to fix from not knowing what their value would be in your country.

It is a great pleasure to us to unite with so many whom we respect on both sides of the Atlantic in aiding however slightly in this great cause. I feel with you that Moral Sympathy is the foundation of all lasting friendship. Without much of this, we may love those who are associated with us in the pursuit of any object on which our hearts are set, but if we love them chiefly because they act with us, our friendship may fail when most needed and most deserved; but it will

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not fail if it be the sympathy of a common allegiance to right, - our allegiance so firm and unwavering as to be proof not merely against the persecution of enemies and strangers but against the far heavier trial of the disapproving and cold glance of former friends. If we love and reverence a man not so much because his convictions of duty happen to coincide with ours as for his fearlessness in forming and firmness in adhering to his own views of right, then if the day should come when he shall, in any matter, conscientiously oppose instead of cooperating with us, we shall lose a fellow labourer but not a friend, and we shall not by bigotted or narrow views place a stumbling block or occasion to fall in his path. So with respect to agreement of opinion, we may hold similar views on Theological or other subjects without any intellectual sympathy; but let us be alike worshippers of Truth rather than of our own creeds, and we shall feel that, however different the aspect under which it may appear to us, it is the same great Reality which we reverence -, and to which we shall each be approaching more nearly as ~~fast~~ further light dawns upon our minds.

The way in which Slavery is interwoven ~~with~~ in the texture of American Institutions and American Society, must be melancholy indeed to those in your country who see it in its true deformity; yet this strange intermixture we can scarcely regret, since it leads so many to feel that they can only absolve themselves from its guilt by striving for its abolition. Were it not for this, we might not now be able to look upon it as a system whose doom is pronounced, whose foundations are being rapidly undermined, and whose destruction is a mere question of time; we might not now rejoice in the belief that we may live to witness this mighty change, - to hail the day when America shall no longer have cause to blush in speaking of her boasted freedom, and when her warm hearted Africans shall enjoy equal privileges and equal intercourse with her other children.

With respect to English influence on this question, it should certainly be used in destroying that Slavery which was first introduced by Englishmen, and long encouraged if not enforced by our government. At the same time I think that every censure and remonstrance addressed by our nation to yours, should be sent in no spirit of self satisfied virtue but with the full consciousness of the many sins which still nationally disgrace us and with the sad remembrance of how few years have passed since, by the persevering & life long efforts of our best Countrymen, that direst oppression ceased to find a sanction in our statute book and a place in our dominions.

The prejudice against colour which exists in a slight degree here and so strongly in America, is a feeling which I cannot in the least comprehend. I can imagine that the Negro race having been kept for some time in a degraded position, a man belonging to it would be presumed by many as a matter of course to be ignorant and uncultivated; but when he shows a power of thought and intellect which many of his paler brethren might envy, when he acts in that Christian spirit which they would do well to imitate, and proves himself a gentleman in the highest and best sense in which we can use that word, all of which our friend Mr Douglas has done, to refuse still to treat him as an equal, shows that a serious inequality exists between him and the other parties, the superiority lying where the white men, "the elect lilies of the earth" as Douglas Jerrold ironically terms F. D's fellow passengers, little dream of. We heard with indignation of the insult and injustice to which he was subjected by the Agents of the Cambria packet company. Their conduct has been noticed with strong & well deserved censure in our leading newspapers.

Feeling that the letter which has given me so much pleasure, is intended for the other friends of the Cause here as well as for myself, I think I shall be doing as you

would desire in circulating in some cases the whole in others parts of it pretty generally amongst them. I think the Frontispiece to The Liberty Bell is remarkably pretty. Among the Articles which I like the best are the clear one on Disunion by W. Phillips, the sonnet translated by the gentle & the brave Charles Follen, the little poem by his wife. The Death of Toussaint L'Ouverture and the contributions of E Quincy, Mary Zimi, my schoolfellow Lucy Sandford, Parker Pillsbury and Maria Lowell.

With earnest desires that an ever widening sympathy and cooperation may attend your efforts, and that the All Holy One will in his own good time Crown them with success, - believe me, my dear Mrs. Chapman, to remain

Yours very faithfully
Lucy Browne

P. S. May I trouble you, when you see Mr Douglass to give him the affectionate remembrances of his friends at Riverside.

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